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12. ON THE VALIDITY OF *DENDROCITTA FORMOSAE SARKARI* KINNEAR & WHISTLER

In the course of the Vernay Scientific Survery of the Eastern Ghats held during 1929-30, seven specimens of the Himalayan Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta formosae*) were obtained in the Vizagapatam Hills and separated as *Dendrocitta formosae sarkari* by Kinnear & Whistler (1930, Bull, Brit, Orn, Cl. 51 p. 17).

It was referred to again in the course of the Eastern Ghats Report (*JBNHS* 35 p. 517) as differing from the form in the Eastern Himalayas (now *D. f. himalayensis* Blyth).

Biswas 1964, *JBNHS* 60: 650-1 measured three paratypes of *sarkari* $(2 \sigma \sigma^{1} \varphi)$ and compared them with a large series $(30 \sigma \sigma^{2})^{2}$ $(20 \varphi \varphi^{2})^{2}$ $(32 \sigma^{2})^{2}$ from Eastern (*himalayensis* Blyth) and Western (*occidentalis* Ticehurst) Himalayas. Noting the slight overlap in the measurements he expressed the opinion that *sarkari* was synonymous with *himalayensis*. This has been accepted in IND. HANDBOOK (5: 226).

In the course of cataloguing the Bombay Natural History Society collection, I have examined 9 specimens, 2 from the original series from Anantagiri, Vizagapatam Hills, and 7 fresh specimens collected by Sálim Ali at Berbera, Puri, and Mahendragiri, all in Orissa. While the average measurements are not very different, in series they are strikingly smaller than both *occidentalis* and *himalayensis*, and the range of measurements is also very different.

The wing and tail measurements decline from the north-west (occidentalis) through Eastern Himalayas (himalayensis) to Orissa and the Vizagapatam Hills (sarkari). The measurements overlap with those of the adjoining race, the only consistent difference being the acquirement of a larger wing and tail, both by occidentalis, as compared to himalayensis, and the latter as compared with sarkari.

In the first two, the distribution is contiguous and they no doubt form a cline. The southern birds are, however, isolated and of those examined, the largest wing is 143 mm., bill 23.7 and tail 207.

It is generally overlooked that the bird was described only for its smaller bill. When viewed sideways, it is much smaller than in any of the others and the width at the nostrils never exceeds 11 mm., while it is always more in the others.

On these differences, I think that *sarkari* is a good race and deserves to be retained.

Birds from the Darrang District, Assam. Rec. Indian Mus. 45: 233. RAND, A. L. & FLEMING, R. L. (1957): Birds from Nepal. Fieldiana, Zoology, 41(1): 108.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

	Wing	Bill	From	Width at	Tail
88			nostrii	nostrii	
sarkari	(4) 135-143	28.5-30.6	21-23	9.8-10.6	200, 207
himalayensis	(8) 135-148	29.8-33.3	22-25	11-12	188-224
Biswas's	(30) 137-151 (142.7)	34-39.5 (36.5)			194-228
occidentalis	(6) 140-154	32-35	24.3-26	11.3-12.3	233-249
Biswas's "	(4) 147-156	35-37.5 (36.5)	—		243-260
₽ ₽					
sarkari	(5) 133-140	27.5-30.7	21.7-23.7	10-11	193-203
himalayensis	(12) 135-150	29-33.2	22-25	11-12.3	188-233
Biswas's	(20) 137-148	33.5-39 (36.1)			192-230
occidentalis	(2) 152, 153	30, 33	22.2, 25.8	11.5, 12.3	238, 243
Biswas's "	(7) 149-156	35-40 (37.4)		_	241-261
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Вомвау-400 003. March 31, 1979.

13. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF TYTLER'S LEAF WARBLER, PHYLLOSCOPUS TYTLERI BROOKS IN GOA

Grubh & Ali (1976) state that they obtained a specimen of Tytler's Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus tytleri Brooks in Goa in early December 1972. I have examined this specimen in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society. The diagnostic characters of this species are its "peculiarly long thin bill" (Ticehurst 1938) and dark lower mandible. Comparison with specimens obtained during the breeding season from Kashmir shows that this specimen does not have these characters. It is clearly a Greenish Warbler, Phylloscopus trochiloides (Sundevall), of which I have made a special study (MS.).

Presumably the mis-identification was made on the basis of no wing bar. However, individual Greenish Warblers in worn plumage (as this specimen is) often show very faint or missing wing bars (pers. obs.). The Green-

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ish Warbler goes through its complete annual moult in Spring (Ticehurst 1938) and would be expected to be in worn plumage at this time. Tytler's Leaf Warbler, on the other hand, goes through a complete post-nuptial moult (Ticehurst 1938) and would be expected to be in relatively fresh plumage.

There are therefore only three confirmed records of the Tytler's Leaf Warbler in Winter (Grubh & Ali 1976) and several sight records (Ali & Ripley 1973), all from the west side of the Indian peninsular. The Winter range of this species remains unclear. Ripley records this species in the Dhenkanal District, Orissa, which extends its known winter range considerably further east (Ripley 1978).

I thank Dr. Robert Grubh for help with the Society's collections.

TREVOR D. PRICE